

Serial No.: 10/674,428
Atty. Docket No.: P69160US0

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the abstract as follows:

--The collecting bag has a bag member ~~(2)~~ formed by a first and a second film blank ~~(2,3)~~, and a discharge portion ~~(8)~~ that is foldable and unfoldable to bring the discharge portion from an open unfolded condition to a closed folded condition and vice versa. A first plate member ~~(21)~~ is positioned on the first film blank ~~(2)~~ and a second plate member ~~(22)~~ is positioned on an extension ~~(3a)~~ of the second film blank ~~(3)~~. ~~A locking device is provided at the discharge portion for locking the bag in the closed folded condition of the discharge portion.~~ Each plate member ~~(21,22)~~ is formed from a relatively stiff material, and the distance ~~(d)~~ between the distal edge ~~(21b)~~ of the first plate member ~~(21)~~ and the proximal edge ~~(22a)~~ of the second plate member ~~(22)~~ is smaller than the thickness of the first plate member. When folding the discharge portion, the distal edge of the first plate member acts as a pivot, and a stretching effect is created on the second film blank to effectively seal the discharge opening without deformation of the plate members.--